



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Brent Gross

BRIGHTON MAN INDICTED ON TAX EVASION CHARGES

Brent Gross, of Brighton, Michigan, appeared in federal court today in Detroit on an indictment that charges him with four counts of tax evasion, three counts of filing a false return and one count of presenting a fictitious financial instrument to the Internal Revenue Service, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

Joined in the announcement was Maurice M. Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

According to the indictment, during tax years 2000 through 2003, Gross received taxable income of over \$240,000. In order to stop his employer from withholding taxes during those years, Gross submitted false W-4's claiming he was exempt from tax withholdings. He failed to file income tax returns in an attempt to evade paying the IRS over \$43,000 in tax due and owing. Gross also filed false amended tax returns for the years 1997, 1998, and 1999, in which he stated that he was entitled to income tax refunds of over \$28,000.

During October 2003, Gross sent the IRS a false and fictitious instrument known as a "Register Bill of Exchange", payable to the IRS in amount of \$2,128.28. A false "Register Bill of Exchange" is typically defined as a negotiable financial instrument where the payee authorizes the U.S. Treasury to disburse the funds to the IRS. Gross provided written instructions informing the IRS to use this instrument to pay his tax due and owing.

United States Attorney Murphy stated, "The prosecution of individuals who intentionally conceal income and evade taxes is a vital element in maintaining public confidence in our tax system. We should not expect the honest taxpayer to foot the bill for those who hide income from the IRS."

"The law is crystal clear; people must pay their taxes," said Aouate. "IRS Criminal Investigation will vigorously investigate those individuals who knowingly and willfully evade their tax obligation."

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of IRS Criminal Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Karl R. Overman.